

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: MAY 26, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS PRESENT:
SUPERVISORS	REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
TAYLOR	LEONARD FOSBROOK, PRESIDENT
CONOVER	JOHN WHEATLEY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
PITKIN	REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:
SOKOL	PATRICIA TATICH, DIRECTOR
MERLINO	WAYNE LAMOTHE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
MCCOY	PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY/COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
MCDEVITT	& FISCAL SERVICES
	JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
	SUPERVISORS THOMAS
	VANNES
	BLAKE JONES, <i>THE POST STAR</i>
	CHARLENE DIRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Planning & Community Development Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. McCoy and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Len Fosbrook, President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Fosbrook stated in lieu of an Annual Report this year, the EDC had produced a report entitled '2010 Directions'; a copy of which is on file with the minutes. He added the report highlighted the key projects and accomplishments of the EDC over the last ten years and listed the financial information of the organization. He added the EDC hoped to utilize the report for a few years before updating it.

Mr. Fosbrook noted two years ago the EDC had worked diligently with Tribune Media Services to assist them in the selection of a new location. He added the President/CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Tribune Media Services had sent a letter to the EDC thanking them for their assistance.

John Wheatley, Economic Development Specialist, expounded that at the urging of the CEG (Center for Economic Growth), with whom the EDC had been partnered since 2006, the EDC had co-sponsored a 'round table' discussion meeting. He said technology experts in economic growth from areas with chip fabs had been invited to the discussion to speak. He explained the experts were Dr. Martin Gelo from Dresden, Germany, who was a member of the Saxony Parliament and the former Director of AMD; and Dave Lawrence, the former Deputy City

Manager of Hillsborough, Oregon. He stated both Dresden, Germany and Hillsborough, Oregon did not have a lot to offer prior to the construction of the chip fabs. For the 'round table' discussion, he explained, CEG had asked the EDC to assemble a cross section of business leaders, planners, elected officials and institutional leaders and they had compiled an audience of approximately 25 people. He said the meeting had consisted of two brief presentations from the experts followed by a question and answer period. He stated the experts had claimed Warren County had an advantage in the existence of Tech Valley as a starting point for the technology industry. He further stated the experts had predicted a developed eco system that would support the industry within five years of the opening of the chip fab. He added the experts advised that 25 to 50 miles from the chip fab was a good range for economic improvement. He reported the experts had suggested that the amount of funds expended on marketing should be tripled, as marketing was key to attracting more businesses. He added it was important to highlight the strengths of the area, such as the medical device cluster.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Taylor noted the amount of funding allotted to the EDC had been reduced during the budget process. He voiced his opinion that more funds should be expended on economic development as this was the time to complete marketing to attract more businesses to the area.

Ms. Fosbrook reported an outline of a proposal from Gubernatorial candidate Andrew Cuomo entitled "The New NY Agenda: A Plan for Action" was included in the agenda packet. He explained the proposal included policies dealing with economic development that would take the decision making process away from the counties, which concerned him. He said he did not feel it was a good management technique to have representatives in Albany, New York dictate what was best for the individual counties. He commented the proposal involved overhauling of current agencies, such as the IDA's (Industrial Development Agencies) and would radically change or eliminate many of the programs currently in place.

Mr. Fosbrook stated he had spoken with Jeff Byrne, Senior Vice President of ORDA (Olympic Regional Development Authority), about the possibility of Warren County holding the Centurion Cycling Event. He added the organization that was hosting the Centurion Cycling Event was the same organization that hosted the Iron Man Triathalons, including the one hosted in Lake Placid for the last ten years. He expressed the Centurion Cycling Events were successful in Europe, attracting 6,000 to 8,000 tourists. He said the organization had selected a site in Madison, Wisconsin and a ski area in Canada to host the event and they wanted to find a third site on the east coast. He explained Mr. Byrne had thought it would be a great event to be held at Gore Mountain. Mr. Fosbrook continued the organization preferred ski areas for the event due to the large open areas with plenty of parking. He advised a meeting had been held the previous day with representatives from the Sheriff's Department, Emergency Medical Services, Planning & Community Development, EDC, ORDA and a few Supervisors to discuss the possibility of bidding for the Event. He said there would be details and issues to work out due to the fact the Event would be held on public roads which would cause the need for rolling road closures. He added adequate medical support would be required as they anticipated approximately 2,000 entrants for the first event.

Patricia Tatich, Director of Planning & Community Development, distributed copies of a map

outlining the possible routes for the Centurion Cycling Event to the Committee members; a copy of which is on file with the minutes. Ms. Tatich noted the map was not labeled but detailed a 99 mile route with a 50 mile cut off. She noted there was also a 25 mile ride and an opportunity existed to incorporate the Warren County Bike Trail into the route.

Mr. Fosbrook said the route could possibly change but he would like it to extend through as many municipalities as possible. He advised the Centurion Cycling Event would stretch the tourism season and could attract other events in the future. Mr. Conover asked when the event would be held and Mr. McCoy replied it would either be held the week after the Americade Motorcycle Rally or the week before the Fourth of July. Mr. Fosbrook noted Warren County would need to bid for the event and meet certain criteria and added proper promotion for the event would be necessary. Mr. Fosbrook stated the EDC would most likely complete an economic impact study to determine the impact for Warren County. He added the event would draw tourists for four nights. Mr. Pitkin said sports tourism would make Warren County more attractive to companies like Global Foundries. Ms. Tatich said the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Communities could generate an economic impact of an estimated \$2.6 million. Mr. Conover asked if the event had the potential of recurring and Mr. McCoy replied affirmatively.

Discussion ensued.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ms. Tatich who distributed copies of the Planning & Community Development agenda to the Committee members; a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development, requested a transfer of funds in the amount of \$2,500 from the Furniture Code (CD69 8686 210) to the Consulting Fees Code (CD69 8686 437) to cover a shortfall.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Pitkin and carried unanimously to approve the request for a transfer of funds and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the Request for Transfer of Funds form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Tatich requested to ratify the actions of the Chairman of the Board in signing a contract amendment between Warren County and the Warren County Local Development Corporation (LDC) to accept \$10,000 in funding from the LDC to be used towards the cost of the Broadband Needs Analysis and the Conceptual Design Study to be prepared by CBN Connect.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. McCoy and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 18, 2010 Board meeting.*

Ms. Tatich requested to increase Capital Project No. H295 9550 280 - Countywide Broadband Study, in the amount of \$10,000 to reflect the receipt of funds from the LDC to be used towards the cost of the Broadband Needs Analysis and the Conceptual Design Study to be prepared by CBN Connect.

Motion was made by Mr. Pitkin, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request to increase Capital Project No. H295 9550 280 - Countywide Broadband Study by

\$10,000 and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe reminded the Committee that an Event Technical Assistance Provider had been hired with funds from the New York State Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. He said the employee had several good ideas, was very energetic and the arrangement was working well. He advised they would develop a strategy for the position for the remainder of 2010.

Ms. Tatich distributed copies of a cell phone coverage map of Warren County to the Committee members; a copy of which is on file with the minutes. She said the map had been completed at the request of Congressman Murphy's Office and she explained they had aggregated the coverage of the three largest cell phone providers in the area; Sprint, Verizon and AT&T. She added information had also been gathered from the individual Towns, the Sheriff's Department and by Departmental staff canvassing the County with their cell phones to determine where there was no service. She noted the majority of the map was colored in red, representing areas with no cell phone coverage.

Ms. Tatich apprised the North Country Broadband Summit had been held on May 21, 2010 in Lake Placid and was sponsored by Senator Little's Office. She advised New York State would receive Economic Stimulus funding to map broadband coverage throughout the State and the map that was presented showed where there was no coverage and almost mirrored the results of the cell phone coverage map previously presented.

Ms. Tatich stated the agenda from the North Country Broadband Summit was attached to the agenda packet and included a list of speakers. She said representatives from the State Office for Technology had been present and had expressed that by the end of summer their website would allow visitors to view broadband providers by region. She explained the maps presented at the Summit showed population concentrations for each area including how many residents were seasonal and year round. She added she had been worried there was a lack of interest in investing in the Adirondacks due to population and had suggested property values be included in the map's criteria. She reviewed the list of speakers that had been present at the Summit.

Ms. Tatich said she had planned to present an update on Census 2010; however, she added, the necessary website was currently under construction, so she would present an update at the next Committee meeting.

Ms. Tatich commented that Matt Sprow, Environmental Education Administrator at Up Yonda Farm, had requested technical assistance with a search for possible funding. She said she and Mr. LaMothe would meet with Mr. Sprow prior to the next Committee meeting and would advise the Committee as to the status of the request.

Ms. Tatich noted the vacancy on the Warren County Planning Board from the Town of Queensbury had been filled; however, she added, a Board member from the Town of

Warrensburg had submitted her resignation. She said she would contact Mr. Geraghty to determine a possible replacement.

Ms. Tatich apprised at a previous meeting the Committee had decided to accept the grant award of \$120,000 from the Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC). She noted the funds were State funds, not Federal and she had been advised by the County Attorney's Office that a local law would need to be established in order to utilize the funds. Mr. Taylor asked if Warren County had accepted AHC funds in the past and Ms. Tatich replied affirmatively but added it had been a long time ago.

Paul Dusek, County Attorney/Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, explained the County could only do what the law authorized them to do or what could be reasonably implied from the law. He stated there was a law under the General Municipal Law that gave the authority to spend funds received from the Federal Programs. He added the AHC Program was funded solely by New York State and none of the existing laws granted the authority to utilize the funding. He advised the Municipal Home Rule Law gave the County the right to make their own authority in some areas. He added simply passing a local law would give the County the necessary authority to utilize the AHC funds. He said the reason the State entered into the grant program when the County did not have the authority to act upon the award was because the State dealt with many municipal entities, some of whom had alternative forms of government or charters with built in authority. Mr. Dusek said if the Committee was in favor of proceeding with the grant, a local law could be established to allow them to do so. Mr. LaMothe requested the local law be written in a generic format as to allow for authorization of similar programs in the future.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to introduce a Local Law to provide authority for Warren County to engage in activities, grants and programs offered by the State. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 18, 2010 Board meeting.*

Mr. LaMothe apprised the Committee had been discussing the possibility of eliminating area and use variances referrals handled by the Warren County Planning Board. He said the majority of the area and use variances presented to the Warren County Planning Board had no County impact. He commented the Warren County Planning Board could enter into intermunicipal agreements with the individual Towns to eliminate area and use variance referrals; however, he added, agreements were already established with some Towns, who sent everything to the Warren County Planning Board regardless of the agreements. Mr. LaMothe asked if it was possible to amend the resolution which established the Warren County Planning Board in order to eliminate these referrals as opposed to entering into an agreement with each Town.

Mr. Dusek explained if a County Planning Board was created, the law stated it shall accept area and use variance referrals. The only way the law provided for an opt out, he added, was through intermunicipal agreements. He said the law presumed the County would have an interest, as most area and use variances were within 500 feet of a County road. He recommended a standard form intermunicipal agreement that could be used with each Town,

sanctioned by a resolution of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Dusek advised if the Towns continued to refer items which were not part of the intermunicipal agreement, the Planning & Community Development Department staff could refer the issues back to the Towns. Mr. LaMothe said his understanding was the agreement would be between the Warren County Planning Board and the individual Towns and would not require a County resolution and Mr. Dusek said that was correct but added he would check to ensure County approval was not required.

Mr. Merlino exited the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Following further discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to have the County Attorney develop a generic format intermunicipal agreement for the Warren County Planning Board to review with each individual Town.

There being no further business to come before the Planning & Community Development Committee, on motion by Mr. Pitkin and seconded by Mr. Sokol, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist